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REPORT KGB AGENT DEFECTS TO WEST GERMANY
STUTT GART, WEST GERMANY

A high-ranking KGB officer, working for the Soviet secret police in Vienna, defected to West Germany after being exposed by Western agents and summoned home, a newspaper reported Thursday.

The Stuttgarter Zeitung said Vadim Ivanov, who was bureau chief for the official Soviet news agency Tass in Vienna, Austria, fled to West Germany sometime after January, when he had been due to return to Moscow.

It said the Soviet defector provided Western intelligence agents with details of the Soviet Union's "subversive activities in Western Europe."

West German authorities in the past have routinely turned Soviet defectors over to the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency for debriefing before considering their petitions for political asylum.

The telephone rang unanswered Thursday at the CIA station chief's office in Frankfurt.

West Germany's federal intelligence agency refused to comment on the unattributed report.

The status of his reported asylum request was unclear. The Bonn Interior Ministry told the AP in three telephone calls Thursday that no one was available for comment.

The paper did not give a source for its information or say which countries' intelligence agencies were involved.

Stuttgarter Zeitung said Western intelligence agents unmasked Ivanov as a KGB agent when he was transferred to Vienna from Bonn, where he had been a Tass correspondent.

It said the Western agents advised him to defect rather than return to his homeland. The paper did not say in which German city Ivanov requested political asylum or give his current whereabouts.

In Vienna, a man answering the phone at the Tass bureau said Ivanov was not there. "He went back to Moscow ... several months ago," the man said.

Ivanov was a member of the governing board of the Foreign Press Association in Vienna. At the December 1983 meeting, he announced he could not run for re-election because he had been reassigned, Western journalists said.